

8/6/70

Dear Russ, the letter you mailed last night reached here this a.m. Exceptional.

The Ted Charach stuff interests me so that I may keep a complete file on it only. I have deep doubts, not about his sincerity or his intentions, but about at least some of the facts and his witnesses and his associates. I also have no desire to undermine him, but a trusted friend of better than average judgement in the media and all our way has doubtso end, I understand from a mutual friend, so, now, does the lawyer, who was the chief reason initially was interested. Charach phoned me, I believe while you were here. So, while I'm glad to get the clippings and share his estimate of the deficiencies, if that is the word, of the investigation and the LAPD and most of all about the man in charge, I am not hopeful of a good end. Some of those involved are nuts, some charlatans.

However, the gusene bombing does interest me and I'd welcome everything you have on that. I'm not phoning tomorrow night because there is no rush. Let me take a few minutes before and expected and overdue phone call to try and explain. I almost sold a major publisher a book, BOMB BABY BOMB; The Country Will Burn, and the underlying theme being American violence is as American as cherry pie. This would show that official interest evolves only when there is violence from the disaffected left and disinherited minorities, who feel they have little alternative. I t would then trace recent right-wing bombing and assassinations, about which little or nothing was done, show the degree of federal responsibility (pkus state in some cases), reproduce defused rightwing manuals (I've gotten several more since you were here, and conclude that unless there is a major change in society by peaceful means if will be attempted by violence, there being no alternative for the young save acceptance of the unacceptable, abdication, etc. I have a marvelous single-days burden of news that only the insane could accept, the day I decided to do that providing one that could hardly be improved upon. As you know, there is much in COUP that cannot be in the commercial edited edition I now expect (the call is on negotiations on the contract).

I dont think anyone has drawn together the recent history of the bombings of the right, and they have been extensive. I've interviewed some of these characters and have enough on others. I think, especially if editing were promptly available for a rapidly-written book, it could serve a socially-constructive purpose and be commercially acceptable and successful. So did the vice president of a major house, which did not turn it down out of hand. The did consider it, seriously, and the reason given for the rejection, believed by the vice-president/friend, can be overcome, certainly by a successful initial printing.

This would be a very frightening book, for the comfortable unthinking, the complacent, the gradualists. I could do it with what I have, but would like all of the other things you now understand that are possible. I can await the indexing by your helper, then would welcome the clips. I place little faith in the Treep, so if you get any establishmentarian stuff, or have ways of getting it from such organs as the LA Times, I'd welcome.

Have a good grip. We'll be here. Best, H